Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 3 of 11

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended) An annealing rack, particularly for transporting aluminum east parts in the heat treatment process, wherein comprising it is constructed from at least one annealing rack element having and at least one annealing basket, which may be is removably placed therein in the at least one annealing rack element and the shape of the at least one annealing basket is adaptable to the designed for a particular annealing stock.
- 2. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein the <u>at least one</u> annealing rack <u>elements are element is implemented so they are that the at least one annealing rack element is stackable one on top of another.</u>
- 3. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein each of the at least one annealing rack element has at least one rest and corner supports projecting upward from the corners of the at least one rest.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 3, wherein in the at least one of the annealing rack elements element, the corner supports are connected to the at least one rest and/or to one another using rack struts.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 3, wherein the <u>at least one rest[[,]] and the corner supports</u>, and possibly rack struts of the annealing rack element are detachably connected to one another, particularly by plug in connections.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 3, wherein

Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 4 of 11

the <u>at least one</u> rest[[,]] <u>and</u> the corner supports, and possibly the rack struts of the <u>annealing rack element</u> are connected to one another with play.

- 7. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein <a href="the-at-least-one-of-the-annealing-rack-element-is">the-at least one of the-annealing rack element-is provided with means for detachable fixing of the at least one annealing basket.</a>
- 8. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according Claim 1, wherein the <u>at least one</u> annealing basket has a basket floor having upwardly projecting basket supports.
- 9. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein in the at least one of the annealing baskets basket, the basket supports are connected to the basket floor and/or to one another using basket struts.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor[[,]] <u>and</u> the basket supports, <u>and possibly basket struts of the annealing basket</u>, are connected to one another detachably, <u>particularly by plug in connections</u>.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor[[,]] <u>and</u> the basket supports, and possibly the basket struts of the annealing basket are connected to one another with play.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein wire clips may be are attached detachably, particularly plugged in and/or screwed in, to the basket floor and/or the basket supports and/or the basket struts.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein <a href="the-at-least-one-of-the-annealing-baskets">the at least one-of-the-annealing baskets</a> basket is provided with means for detachable fixing on the <a href="at-least-one-annealing-rack">at-least-one-annealing rack</a> element.

Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 5 of 11

- 14. (New) The annealing rack according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one rest, the corner supports, and the rack struts of the at least one annealing rack element are detachably connected to one another.
- 15. (New) The annealing rack according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one rest, the corner supports, and the rack struts of the at least one annealing rack element are connected to one another with play.
- 16. (New) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor, the basket supports, and the basket struts of the at least one annealing basket are connected to one another detachably.
- 17. (New) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor, the basket supports, and the basket struts of the at least one annealing basket are connected to one another with play.